

A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT BLOCK, BICHPURI, AGRA

A. P. RAJVANSHI*

Objectives

This investigation was carried out in Development Block, Bichpuri (Agra) during the year 1964 to assess the extent of adoption of improved practices in different crops, increase in crop yield and reaction of the farmers towards the block since its inception in 1956. The reasons of non-adoption of improved practices and their sources of information were also studied. 64 heads of the families were selected by random sampling technique and data were collected by personal interview with schedule.

Findings

The Block concentrated its activities mainly to improve the cultivation of three crops—bajra (pearl millets) in the kharif season and wheat and gram in the rabi season. The crop wise main findings based on the cropping year 1963-64 are as follows :—

1. Except green manuring which was done for wheat to some extent, no other recommended practices were in use by the farmers in any crop in the pre-block period. It may therefore be said that the recommended practices were adopted after the start of the block activities.

2. Out of the two improved practices recommended by the Block for bajra, 10 per cent of the bajra growers adopted fertilisers alone and another 12 per cent adopted fertilisers in combination with line sowing. About 62 per cent of the growers who used fertilisers did so only on a part of their bajra area. Poor availability and high initial fertility of the soil were the reasons given for partial adoption of fertilisers. No increase in yield, inadequate supply of sufficient compost and lodging were the reasons given for non-adoption of fertilisers. Ignorance about the practice and no better yield were the reasons given for non-adoption of line sowing.

3. Among the various practices recommend-

ed for wheat, improved seed and fertilizers, have been adopted by 79.5 and 68.2 per cent of the wheat growers covering 84.7 and 55.8 per cent of the area under this crop respectively. The main reasons given for non-adoption of improved seed were supply of poor quality seed and their non-availability. The reasons given for non-adoption of fertilizers were poor availability, lack of irrigation and no increase in yield.

4. About 20 per cent of the wheat growers followed green manuring on a part of their wheat area in 1963-64, 77.7 per cent of whom started its use during the Block period. The main reasons given for partial or non-adoption of this practice were improper decay of green manure crop and thereby inviting whiteants, loss of one kharif crop, late rains, delay in turning in of green manure crop which delays wheat sowing and water-logging.

5. Only 39 per cent of the wheat growers used one or more of improved implements. About 47 per cent of the users did not own any improved implement. Require more bullock power, lack of money and small size of holding were the reasons given for non-adoption of improved implements.

6. Reduced seed rate and sowing by dibbling method were reported to have been adopted by 38.6 and 18.0 per cent of the wheat growers respectively. Poor soil and poor yield were the main reasons given by non-adopters of reduced seedrate. More labour and time requirement, lack of dependable source of irrigation and poor soil were the reasons for non-adoption of dibbling.

7. Only 16 per cent of the wheat growers adopted plant protection measures. The only reason mentioned by the farmers for non-adoption of plant protection measures was their ignorance about them.

8. Out of two improved practices recommended by the Block for gram, only 16.6 per cent growers of this crop adopted them either singly or in combination. The sole reason advanced for non-adoption of the recommended practices was their ignorance about them.

9. The Village Level Worker was reported as the main source of information about improved practices.

10. As regards increase in yield due to adoption of improved practices, the yield of bajra increased from 8.3 q/ha to 10.3 q/ha with the use of fertilizers and to 12.7 q/ha when fertilizers and line sowing both were used.

The increase in yield of wheat was from 12 q/ha to 26.6 q/ha when all the improved practices were used in combination. In gram the average grain yield of 12 q/ha with local practices increased to 18.3 q/ha (52.5 per cent) with the adoption of improved seed and superphosphate.

11. The intensity of cropping increased by 18 per cent during the Block period, which mainly occurred due to an increase in irrigated area.

All of the 64 respondents were found to be aware of the existence of the Block, but only 26 (40.9 per cent) of them obtained some or the other kind of help from it.